

Ninety-nine chapter presidents gather in St. Louis for the Fraternity's first Presidents Leadership Conference

Unite the chapter with a common goal. Take full responsibility for the actions of your chapter. Learn to listen and respond to the concerns of your brothers. Your direction will make an enormous impact on the quality of life for your chapter brothers. Assume the role as the leader of your chapter.

The desire and pressure to achieve all of this can create stress and anxiety in the minds of new chapter presidents as they are about to take office. Knowing the concerns and challenges that face these newly elected presidents, Phi Delta Theta created "The Courage to Lead," the first Presidents Leadership Conference, to help answer questions and calm nerves about serving as the president of a chapter.

Ninety-nine chapter presidents and 20 faculty took advantage of this opportunity to meet with presidents throughout North America. Held in St. Louis on January 7-9, 2000, the conference and educational programming was sponsored by the Phi Delta Theta Educational Foundation.

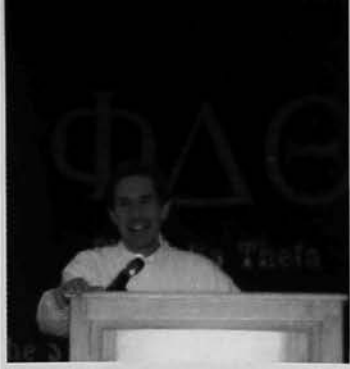
"The Presidents Leadership Conference is an excellent opportunity to gather new chapter presidents from across

THE COURAGE TO LE

the United States and Canada to discuss items of mutual concern," said Past President of the

General Council Ed Whipple, *Hanover '74*. "The chance to meet with other presidents experiencing many of the same challenges is invaluable."

The goal of the conference was to give new presidents a special opportunity to gain leadership skills separate from the Leadership College held each summer. The Presidents Conference focused on educating and providing the presidents with resources and training that will enable them to successfully lead their chapters. The conference also allowed presidents to network, hear dynamic speakers, discuss issues, and participate in brotherhood opportunities.



"The response we have received from participating undergraduates and alumni has been phenomenal," said Director of Risk Management Marc Mores, *Iowa State '95*. "This is the first year we've held this conference, and already the positive feedback has been overwhelming."

The conference was opened by Conference Chairman and General Council Member Charley Pride, *Western Kentucky '87*. For two days, participants attended seminars given on chapter leadership, community leadership, and the challenges leaders face.

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By Elizabeth Brown

"In the past two days I have learned more ways and ideas for leading my chapter than I learned in eight months of being the president."

"The chapter presidents truly made the conference a success," Pride said. "Their desire to learn about the Fraternity and their role as leader of their chapter really made the difference."

Brothers joined on Friday night for a reading of *The Bond* given by Chuck Poore, General Council president. Jeff LeBlanc, *Toronto, '02*, believed this was one of the most rewarding aspects of the program.

"The shared experience of our international brotherhood was very rewarding," LeBlanc stated. "It was great to see how so many 'strangers' actually have a very strong 'Bond'"

The conference also included several discussion groups which enabled brothers to interact with other chapter presidents and dis-

cuss issues pertinent to Greek life. The discussion groups addressed goal setting, chapter standards, available resources and services in the General Fraternity, team building, alcohol-free housing and risk management.

"The program energized me to go back to my chapter and do my very best during rush week," David Lempp, *Nebraska '01*, stated. "No matter how burned out I was—I am ready to lead now!"

To maintain the motivation gained from the conference, each president was given a goal sheet to establish and help track chapter improvements. These forms also helped presidents decide what their role as a leader will be in reaching these goals. Copies of the sheets will be sent back to the chap-





ter presidents to remind and encourage them to reach each of their goals.

Jeffery Wygal, *Northwood '00*, sees these goal and improvement sheets as a positive way to maintain motivation once he has returned to his chapter.

"I believe that the Headquarters, faculty, and volunteers do a good job of supplying the undergraduates with information, but we kind of lose enthusiasm back at school," Wygal said. "It is our responsibility as undergrads to take this information back to our chapters and try to implement and pass on our ideas and goals."

Along with the opportunities provided through the speeches and discussion groups on leadership, brothers were able to have fun and get to know each other through games like Friday night's quiz show. Based on the TV game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?," the activity tested brothers' fraternal knowledge through trivia questions about the

Fraternity and famous members. Prizes included shirts, ties, flags, badges, and a cash prize for the winner of the final round.

This kind of interaction with other presidents is what Troy Martinez, *California State-Sacramento '00*, thinks made the leadership conference so effective.

"Not only did I get some great ideas to bring back to my chapter, but I got to meet the presidents of the other chapters in my province," Martinez stated. "I hope this will open relations between us."

The conference ended on Sunday with closing remarks from Brother Pride, a final roll call, and a passing of the gavel. Participants left the conference ready to implement the new ideas and skills they learned in their chapter.

"In the past two days I have learned more ways and ideas for leading my chapter than I learned in eight months of being the president," said Shawn Hempel *Oregon Institute of Technology, '02*.

"I am convinced in order to address the many issues confronting Greek letter organizations today, undergraduate leadership is critical," said Brother Whipple—who is also president of the Order of Omega National Board. "A program, such as this conference, is a key vehicle for providing that leadership."

Preparations are already underway for the Presidents Leadership Conference for 2001. Next year's conference, in addition to some new leadership tracks, will also include recruitment seminars.

"I feel the conference was very successful," Pride stated. "The chapter presidents had a chance to interact with fraternity leaders, headquarters staff and other presidents. This group will help write a new chapter in the Fraternity's history."

"I was nervous about becoming president," Austin Woodin, *Iowa State, '01*, confessed. "However, the training I received here helped a great deal. I now have a vision of what I want to accomplish."



WHO WANTS TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS?

Several brothers rose to this challenge Friday night at the Presidents Leadership Conference. Could you have challenged them? Take a look at a few of the questions to see how you could have competed. The answers are listed on page 5.

Hosted by Rudy Porchavina—Phi Delta Theta's own "Regis"—contestants competed for prizes. The lucky winner of the grand prize was Adrian Evans, *Puget Sound '01*. Congratulations Brother Evans and the other participants for a great show.

LIFELINES:

50:50



1. In what year was the first Phikeia Manual printed?

A: 1886

B: 1902

C: 1848

D: 1898

2. Which Fraternity is not a member of the Miami Triad?

A: Beta Theta Pi

B: Phi Delta Theta

C: Phi Kappa Tau

D: Sigma Chi

3. Who did not hold the title of Executive Vice President, also known as the Executive Secretary?

A: Arthur R. Priest

B: Paul C. Beam

C: Walter B. Palmer

D: Robert J. Miller

4. Where would you find the term "In Coelo Quies Est?"

A: Golden Legion Pin

B: End of Chapter Grand

C: Coat of Arms

D: Alumnus Charm

5. This piece of jewelry is similar to the Phikeia button, but the letters "ΦΔΘ" replace the word "Phikeia".

A: Golden Legion Pin

B: Badge of Mourning

C: Recognition Button

D: The Alumnus Charm

6. How many homeruns did Famous Phi Lou Gehrig hit during his Major League career?

A: 500

B: 605

C: 326

D: 493

7. Which term BEST describes the color of the Fraternity flower?

A: Azure

B: Argent

C: Azul

D: Aztec

8. This Famous Phi was a 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist?

A: Mark Spitz

B: Bill Toomey

C: Al Oerter

D: Doak Walker

9. What animal is sacred to Pallas?

A: The Hawk

B: The Owl

C: The Eagle

D: The Wolf

10. Which was not an occupation of Robert Morrison?

A: Soldier

B: Principal

C: Preacher

D: Editor

11. This Fraternity Award recognizes the "Alumnus of the Year."

A: Samuel V. Stone Award

B: Arthur R. Priest Award

C: Raymond L. Gardner Award

D: The Legion of Honor

12. This Famous Phi is owner of the Buffalo Bills.

A: Steve Tasker

B: Ralph Wilson

C: Jim Otto

D: Ray L. Hunt